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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7069

BILL NUMBER: HB 1010

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 2, 2006

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Eminent Domain.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Wolkins

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires a condemnor, before proceeding to acquire property by use of eminent domain, to: (1) conduct a good faith negotiation with the owner of the property; (2) submit a proposed purchase price to the owner; and (3) provide the owner with an appraisal or other evidence used to establish the proposed purchase price.

It requires a condemnor, except the Department of Transportation and certain other persons, to proceed to acquire the property by use of eminent domain not more than two years after the condemnor submits a written acquisition offer to the owner of the property. The bill requires the Department and certain other persons to initiate eminent domain proceedings not more than six years after the Department or other person submits a written acquisition offer to the property owner.

The bill requires an appraiser appointed under the eminent domain law to be: (1) professionally engaged in making appraisals; or (2) trained as an appraiser and licensed as a real estate broker. It extends certain deadlines under the eminent domain law. The bill provides that if a condemnor fails to: (1) take possession of property the condemnor acquired through the use of eminent domain; and (2) adapt the property for the purpose for which it was acquired; not later than six years after the payment of the award or judgment for damages occurs, the condemnor forfeits all rights in the property as if the procedure to take the property had not begun.

It establishes procedures for transferring ownership or control of real property between private persons through the use of eminent domain, including: (1) limiting the use of eminent domain only to certain types of property; (2) requiring that no reasonable alternative to the use of eminent domain exists; (3) requiring that the acquisition of the property will accomplish more than only increasing the property tax base of a government

entity; (4) requiring the payment of a premium to acquire certain types of property; and (5) requiring the condemnor to pay the attorney's fees of certain owners.

It makes conforming amendments. The bill also specifies that this act applies to all condemnation actions filed on or after November 23, 2005.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill affects all entities having the power of eminent domain. The fiscal impact of this bill will vary among entities depending on state and local actions.

Additional expenditures could be incurred if an entity must pay more to use an appraiser licensed as a real estate broker or a person professionally engaged in making appraisals.

The bill gives an entity six years to take possession of acquired property and adapt it to its intended use, or else it forfeits all rights to the property as if the transaction never occurred.

Current statute provides for the condemnor to pay a property owner's additional costs, up to \$2,500, if there is a trial. This bill makes it so that the condemnor must pay the property owner's attorney's fees that exceed \$1,000.

This bill could also have a fiscal impact if an entity makes additional expenditures because the types of properties that may be acquired using eminent domain is expanded.

All expenditures would still be subject to appropriation limits and authority.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: See *Explanation of State Expenditures*.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Certain entities having the ability to exercise the power of eminent domain.

Local Agencies Affected: Certain entities having the ability to exercise the power of eminent domain.

Information Sources:

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